

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

SUBJECT Foreign Radio Reactions to the report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine

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One of the most notable features of monitored foreign radio broadcasts related to Palestine and to UNSCOP's report is the relative dearth of either attention or comment. Of what little there is, most comes in Arabic transmissions from Jaffa, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, and New Delhi. Sporadic references appear in broadcasts from London and Paris. To date, the Soviet radio is completely silent on the subject of UNSCOP's report.

ARABIC RADIOS

1. Prior to UNSCOP's Report: During the two months prior to UNSCOP's report (made public 31 August), monitored Arabic references to the Palestine issue can be abstracted or excerpted as follows:

A report that according to the Iraqi Premier, Saleh Jabr, his Government "has informed the authorities concerned that the Arabs consider Britain, in the first place, and the U.S., in the second place, responsible for the dangerous stage which the Palestine question has reached. He added that all the Arab Governments... were determined to carry out the secret decisions taken at the Bludan Conference should U.N.'s decision on Palestine be detrimental to the Arabs." (BEIRUT, IN ARABIC TO THE NEAR EAST, 9 JULY 1947)

A report from the ARAB NEWS AGENCY's special correspondent in New York who "says that U.S. Government circles are anxious about the situation in the eastern Mediterranean" and that "the U.S. is said to be discussing new measures to be taken in the eastern Mediterranean.

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... The means to be adopted by the U.S. to carry out this policy (of full cooperation with the Middle East area so that the direct obligations between Britain and certain Mediterranean States can be kept and stability maintained in this area) are not yet clear, but the Egyptian case will draw American attention to the whole of the Middle East question and will help make American policy clear before the presentation of the Palestine case to the U.N. next September. At the same time, it is presumed that America will try to arouse Arab interest in the present situation in the Balkans, because this area is considered by the U.S. as surrounded by dangers threatening the whole Arab world." (CAIRO, ARAB NEWS AGENCY, IN ARABIC MORSE TO EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST, 27 JULY 1947)

A report that Saudi Arabian princes and tribal chieftans meeting with Ibn Saud discussed the Palestine question and "decided" to collaborate as far as possible with the Arab countries on this question, to boycott Zionist products and goods throughout the various parts of Al Gezzerah, and to prevent the passage of Zionist goods from all harbors along Basra Gulf and other Arab harbors. All Jews trading in Zionist goods have closed down their stores as result of the decision." (CAIRO, ARAB NEWS AGENCY, IN ARABIC MORSE TO EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST, 9 AUGUST 1947)

An abstract of the memorandum, submitted by the Arab Higher Committee of Palestine to the Arab Foreign Ministers before their meetings with the UNSCOP, containing the following points: (1) the unacceptability of any solution other than that "based on complete independence" since "Palestine is an indivisible part of the Arab whole", (2) the threat of "Zionist ambitions" which have "now extended to the neighboring Arab countries"; the increasing number of Jews in Palestine "as a result of the encouragement of the imperialistic Anglo-American policy"; and (3) the rejection of "leniency" as a "help to bring about a solution to national causes...." (CAIRO, ARAB NEWS AGENCY, IN ARABIC MORSE TO EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST, 17 AUGUST 1947)

A report that Lebanese Deputy Abd-al-Asseiran and Dr. Rawoud al-Husseini have returned to Beirut from Iran where they had gone on a special assignment (from the Higher Arab Executive) aimed at "acquainting Iranian leaders with the true attitude of the Palestine Arabs and to ask for Iranian support in the Palestinian case. "We found them well acquainted with the details of the case and cherishing a strong desire to support the Arabs' rights." (SHARQ EL-ADNA, JAFFA, IN ARABIC TO THE NEAR EAST, 20 AUGUST 1947)

A commentary that claims "a satisfactory solution of the Palestine case depends to a certain extent on settling the refugee question, although actually the two questions are unconnected. Despite the elegant expressions used by politicians when talking about human and ethical ideals, the immigration regulations of the majority of the world's countries are stricter than ever." (SHARQ EL-ADNA, JAFFA, IN ARABIC TO THE NEAR EAST, 20 AUGUST 1947)

A report of the Iraqi Foreign Minister's (Jamali) statements to the effect "that he believes the Arabs are facing a severe defensive struggle to save this part (Palestine) of the Arab world. He added: 'I truly believe that there is no guarantee for the independence of any Arab country unless the Arabism of Palestine and its existence are safeguarded.'" (SHARQ EL-ADNA, JAFFA, IN ARABIC TO THE NEAR EAST, 30 AUGUST 1947)

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2. Subsequent to UNSCOP's Report: Since 31 August, when UNSCOP's report was made public, Arabic radio broadcasts devoted to the subject have dealt primarily with the widely reported Arabic opposition to the majority's partition proposal and with Arabic "efforts to convince statesmen in various capitals of the righteousness of the Arab viewpoint."

Few broadcasts venture speculation on the Security Council's reaction to the report. An Arabic commentary from New Delhi, however, asserts that "the Soviet Union is awaiting developments" and that "she is not convinced that the partition plan is a good solution and will even be ready to use her veto right against the decision of the Security Council if it approves the UNSCOP recommendations. Thus, the whole Islamic world is awaiting the result of the Security Council session and hopes to see the big powers support justice eventually." (NEW DELHI, IN ARABIC, 4 SEPTEMBER 1947) The Soviet Union is also referred to in a Jaffa broadcast reporting that "Mardam Bey in his capacity as Foreign Minister (of Syria) received the Russian Minister to Syria and Lebanon. Discussions reportedly concerned important political questions, the most outstanding being the Russian attitude towards Egypt and Palestine." (SHARQ EL-ADNA, JAFFA, IN ARABIC TO THE NEAR EAST, 4 SEPTEMBER 1947)

Another Jaffa broadcast comments indulgently on Gromyko's stand on the Egyptian question which is identified with the Palestine issue in that "the same old procedure has been followed in the Egyptian question—the majority agrees on the proposal and then the minority trails in to defeat the proposal." Claiming that Egypt has gained nothing from all the proposed resolutions and that Britain yielded nothing she had not already offered to renounce, the commentary observes that "it seemed that the Russian representative—queer phenomenon—is more conversant with the Egyptian case than any other member of the Security Council" since he devoted his attention solely to the "right of the Sudanese to be given the opportunity to speak for themselves" rather than to the evacuation of British troops which has already been mutually agreed to in the draft of the new Anglo-Egyptian treaty. "It seemed," says the Jaffa commentary, "that Gromyko was the only member of the Security Council who had recognized these facts which made the discussions at the Security Council far from realistic." (SHARQ EL-ADNA, JAFFA, IN ARABIC TO THE NEAR EAST, 4 SEPTEMBER 1947)

OTHER RADIOS

On 31 August, the London radio reports the opinion of the EXPRESS that "Britain should act upon the invitation (of UNSCOP's majority) to get out" and end her mandate. "She has had enough of Palestine." On 3 September, a Spanish-language London broadcast notes the opposition by the Secretary General of the Arab League and of Irgun Zvai Leumi to the report. A BBC commentary on 8 September deploras "dishonest stories about Britain's actions" about the Jews on the "President Warfield"—especially when there is "so much scope for honest challenge to British policies over Palestine and the Jews. ... Britain's case is that while she is obliged to try to keep order in Palestine she will not make her task heavier by admitting so many Jews that the Arabs who live there already will revolt. And, after all, twice as many Arabs as Jews have their homes and the homes of their fathers in Palestine."

AFP reports that the British Count of Norbury, president of the Association for Anglo-Arab Friendship, opposes UNSCOP'S recommendations and that the "extreme leftist Arab organization, the National Liberation League, spoke in favor of the minority report...."

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